

Serial No: 10/821,823  
Reply to Office Action of 12/29/2006  
Amendment Dated: April 17, 2006  
Examiner: Comstock, David C.  
Group: 3733

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

~~This invention relates to a~~ A disk augmentation system and method for situating a retainer comprising artificial supports posterior to or exterior of a spinal column and a spinal column axis. The system and method provides an external retainer having supports for receiving at least one artificial compression body and securing at least one artificial compression body in a supported relationship to facilitate reducing load on the one or more natural disks of a patient.